

# **Craighead Environmental Research Institute**

## **Monthly Progress Report: February 2009**

for the Montana Department of Transportation and Western  
Transportation Institute

Bozeman Pass Wildlife Monitoring

MSU banner number 426899

**1 February 2009 – 28 February 2009**

### **Task 1: Road Kill Surveys during February 2009**

Road kill surveys were conducted between Bozeman and Jackson Creek. Surveys were conducted on both sides of I-90 from Bozeman to Jackson Creek and back for a total of 22 miles round trip and an estimated 1 hour of labor per survey. Twelve (12) road kill surveys were driven during February of 2008. Three (3) of those recorded no new road kill. This equals 308 miles driven in February for this subcontract. Totals of animals killed between Bozeman and Livingston were:

<b>Bozeman Pass Road kill Totals</b>	<b>February</b>
<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>
Badger	0
Beaver	0
Bobcat	0
Bird Spp.	1
Black Bear	0
Cowbird	0
Coyote	1
Crow	0
Deer species	1
Dog	0
Domestic cat	0
Elk	0
Great Horned Owl	1
Ground Squirrel	0
Harrier	0
Hungarian (Gray) Partridge	0
Long-eared Owl	0
Magpie	0
Mallard	0

Marmot	0
Meadowlark	0
Mink	0
Moose	0
Mule Deer	0
Pigeon	0
Porcupine	0
Rabbit	0
Raven	0
Raccoon	0
Red Fox	0
Ruffed Grouse	0
Snowshoe Hare	0
Skunk	1
Small mammal spp.	1
Weasel	0
White Tail Deer	5

#### **Task 2: Track bed monitoring at the MRL Bridge in February 2008**

No track bed sessions were completed in February. The weather was generally too cold and the track bed was frozen. Track bed sessions will resume in the spring.

#### **Task 3: Photo monitoring at fence ends through February 2008**

Cameras were last downloaded on January 15, 2009. Camera batteries were checked on February 15, 2009. Batteries for these fence-end remote cameras were operational and were replaced with fresh batteries. Cameras were downloaded on February 9 2009. At the NE fence end 6 mouse events and one magpie event were recorded. At the SE fence end one magpie event was recorded. Cameras were downloaded again on February 23, 2009. One deer was recorded crossing North at the NE fence end, and one mouse event was recorded. At the SE fence end two people passed by the camera and were recorded. Two mouse events were recorded.

The camera mounted under the I-90 bridge over Bear Canyon road at the western fence end was not downloaded in February.

#### **Task 4: Photo monitoring at jumpouts through February 2008**

Cameras at jumpouts were last downloaded on January 30. They were not downloaded in February.

#### **Task 5: Track bed monitoring at fence ends, jumpouts through February 2008**

Monitoring of fence ends and jumpouts was discontinued in February because of mostly cold conditions and frozen track beds.

**Task 6: Photo monitoring of culverts February 2008**

The ranch culvert cameras were downloaded on February 5. At culvert 329.8 we recorded 76 cattle crossing through the culvert in both directions. Also 2 cats, 1 dog and 1 rabbit events were recorded. Because the cattle were black angus they were difficult to see in the photographs taken at night. We switched out the camera for a slightly different type to see if we could get better illumination. At culvert 329.1 we recorded a large domestic cat on two occasions which entered the culvert.

The ranch culvert cameras were downloaded again on February 11. At culvert 329.8 we recorded 3 horses, 4 horses with riders, 1 cat and 1 dog. All but the cat passed through the culvert. At culvert 311.0 a red fox was recorded two times at night but we were unable to determine whether he passed through the culvert. Three cats and one magpie event were recorded.

**Task 7: Opportunistic snow tracking at track bed, fence ends, jumpouts, and along the Interstate in February 2008.**

No opportunistic snow tracking session were conducted in February at the track bed and jumpouts.

**Task 8: Data Management & Reporting in February 2008**

Data entry and summary required two hours during February.

**Discussion:**

Road kill in February was even lower than January. Cold and snowy conditions were probably not a factor since the weather was unseasonably mild for most of the month. Some of the carcasses that were plowed over previously were recorded as the snow melted during thaws.

An invoice was submitted with this report for February expenses and activities. Currently the cumulative total billed to this project is **\$27,888.36**